

improvement seems to lie in the imperfect sanitary condition of many of the foreign lines of steamers which land immigrants on British shores. Indeed, it is in these cases Dr. Blaxall finds the greatest cause for dissatisfaction. An immense number of foreigners, chiefly Germans, Poles, Russians, Jews and Scandinavians enter England or Scotland for the purpose of reëmbarking for the United States or Canada. These transmigrants are shipped from their own country under a variety of regulations, which lead to considerable complication. The vaccination laws of Sweden only apply to children over two years of age, thus all the precautions taken against the spread of this disease at English ports may be neutralized by the importation of small-pox through the infant of some foreign transmigrant. It must be said, on the other hand, that one frequent source of infection is largely cut off which exists in the case of the ordinary British emigrant. That is the supervision of his lodging, which is arranged by the shipping companies, who have regular houses under strict supervision where the transmigrants are quartered pending the departure of the ocean steamer. In the case of the emigrant there is no such arrangement, and unless he have friends at the port whence he sails, he is usually compelled to find quarters for himself for one night at least, and it may be surmised that latent disease is frequently introduced into the emigrant ships through this cause. Prior to embarkation the emigrants are subjected to strict medical examination at the hands of officers appointed by the Board of Trade. The smallest signs of disease are looked into most minutely, and the condition of the children is particularly ascertained. So far as embarkation from the English ports is concerned, the report leaves one with the impression that autho ity is at least on the high road to perfectly satisfactory regulations. The Local Government Board state that since this inquiry several improvements have been made at more than one English port. The spread of disease in this manner is, after all, not absolutely preventable. Latent cases will of course pass the strictest scrutiny from time to time. With the terrible evidences of the cholera now before us, it is to be hoped that the Local Government Board and the Board of Trade will continue the work of practical inquiry which they have commenced.

The application of pyrogallic acid in phagedenic chancre is a new treatment, which consists in dressing the sore with an ointment of vaseline and pyrogallic acid, (four parts vaseline, one part pyrogallic acid). This form is not adapted to the treatment of superficial ulcers without deep sinuses. In the latter condition a powder consisting of pyrogallic acid and powdered starch (1-4) should be dusted into all parts of the ulceration. For general use the following formula is useful: Pyrogallic acid, 10 drachms; vaseline 4 ounces; starch, 10 drachms. The dressing must be renewed daily. At the Vienna Hospital, however, the employment of pyrogallic acid in the treatment of skin diseases was attended with fatal results, due to the deoxidizing action of the pyrogallic acid upon the blood-corpuscles. So it must be necessary to use care in its use.

Sir Prescott Hewitt takes the late Mr. Cæsar Hawkins' place as one of Her Majesty's sergeant-surgeons-in-ordinary.

One of the best collections of Wedgwood in the country—namely, that belonging to Dr. Shadford Walker, of Liverpool, the well-known oculist—will be sold at auction next March in London. Dr. Walker, over and above his professional achievements, is noted for three special tasks or hobbies—first for his china, secondly for his illuminated MSS. and thirdly, for his successful cultivation of orchids in the very heart of a smoky city.

G. O. M.

DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENCE.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF PROFESSOR P. L. PANUM, M.D.,

President of the Eighth International Medical Congress held at Copenhagen, Denmark, 1884, in the month of August, beginning on the 10th and ending on the 16th.

Professor Peter Ludwig Panum was born on the 19th of December, 1820, in a small town called Ronne, on the Danish island Bornholm, in the Baltic Sea, where his father was a physician.

In the year 1840 young Panum was sent to the University of Kiel, and from there went to the University of Copenhagen, where he in 1845 took his degree. As a student he already lectured with great success, and in consequence of his deep devotion to the study of the physiological branches of the science, he commanded universal attention. In 1846 when almost the whole population of the Faroe islands was suffering from the measles, Panum went thither by order of the Danish government, and during his six months' sojourn in that far away place, succeeded in gaining a reputation as a superior and remarkably energetic young man, and made several interesting discoveries in the contagious venom of the measles. Shortly after returning home he went to Berlin, but on the outbreak of the war he again returned to Copenhagen, and was appointed surgeon on board the man of war "Geiser," where he discharged his duties as a brave officer. It is characteristic that Panum never rested in his youth and wanted to be everywhere at once, to take an active part in all affairs of medical interest. When the cholera epidemic in 1850 was ravaging Denmark, he visited all the worst attacked places, and had good opportunities to study that frightful disease; the following year Panum took the Medical-Doctor degree and then went to Paris, where he studied a year under the eminent physiologist, Claude Bernard.

When he returned home he was appointed to the professorship in physiology at the University of Kiel, where he was greatly admired for his scientific endeavors and strong sense of justice, and beloved for his amiability; he was a rare conscientious teacher, and devoted to his profession. He succeeded in filling his pupils with that same enthusiasm that he himself displayed, and brought them not to work mechanically but to throw their whole souls into the

study, for he sincerely believed in the old saying that "when a thing is worth doing at all, it is worth doing well." Though he was quite a young man, he had gained a name through all the important and interesting results of his studies, and from his very youth had been renowned, honored and respected as one of the most prominent physiologists of the day. But through all his career he never once allowed himself to be carried away with his success, neither has he ever, in public or private life, made a display of his accomplishments; has always been and still remains the quiet and unassuming gentleman, the skilful physician and the sober examiner.

It was more particularly in chemical physiology that Panum from boyhood upwards took so great an interest, "the study of the phenomena of the manifestations of life," laws and causes regarding both animals and plants, and above all the human being. In order to acquire the secrets of the manifestations of life the physiologist must first thoroughly understand the building of the system and of each of the special organs, he must also have a thorough knowledge of physics, chemistry and anatomy. Panum has perfected himself in each, and all combined make him the great physiologist he is. It is a grand and noble science to which the professor has devoted his life, a science that interests the whole civilized world. The Congress at Copenhagen proved it. The professor has never once given in, but with persevering energy has always carried his investigations through; when he once has undertaken anything he is sure to do it and to succeed. His great interest in the late Congress was beyond doubt one of the main causes of its success, for he never does a thing in halves.

Sir James Paget, President of the Seventh International Medical Congress, said: We thought the London Congress grand, but this is yet grander, and the most successful ever held. It is characteristic of Panum, and shows his profound physiological interest, that although a professorship at the Copenhagen University from his youth, had been his greatest ambition, he would, when it was offered to him, accept it only on the condition that a physiological laboratory was erected there, and remained in Kiel until he received consent to build one. As leader of this institution he has had a great influence on medical science, and being a strong and hearty man, he will undoubtedly have still more in years to come, using his great faculties for the benefit of humanity.

In a few short sketches, Professor Panum is a loving husband and father, an honored and true man of science, and an amiable colleague and host. He is a member of several scientific societies, and is decorated with the Cross, "Commander of Dannebrog," etc., etc. In 1887 the Professor will visit the United States of America, and cede the presidential dignity to one of his American colleagues. When Dr. Billings, in the name of the American physicians, brought that most cordial invitation, and Washington was proposed as the place for the meeting of the Ninth International Medical Congress in 1887, and enthusiastically accepted, Professor Panum's last words were:

Au revoir, my friends. We meet again in Washington, on the other hemisphere.

TO ALL THE PHYSICIANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

and especially to those who honored the Copenhagen "International Medical Congress" with their presence,
this Biography is respectfully dedicated,
by the Author,

OTTO HAUBERG-KNUDSEN.

BOOK REVIEWS.

THE NATIONAL DISPENSATORY, Containing the Natural History, Chemistry, Pharmacy, Actions, and Uses of Medicines. Including those Recognized in the Pharmacopœias of the United States, Great Britain, and Germany, with Numerous References to the French Codex. By ALFRED STILLE, M.D., LL.D., Professor Emeritus of the Theory and Practice of Medicine and of Clinical Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, and JOHN M. MAISCH, Ph.D., Professor of Materia Medica and Botany of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy. Third Edition, Thoroughly Revised, with Numerous Additions. With 311 Illustrations. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Son & Co. 1884.

This ponderous volume of 1755 pages, is published in the usually good style of the well-known publishing house of Henry C. Lea's Son & Co. The two former editions have made the general merits of the work so well known that an extended notice of this edition is unnecessary.

The present edition bears all the marks of a careful and full revision, in which the latest revision of the several national pharmacopœias has been rendered available. More than 100 pages of additional matter have been added to this edition of the work, making it perhaps as complete and valuable as any work of the kind in the English language. From Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago.

DISEASES OF THE THROAT AND NOSE, by MORELL MACKENZIE, M.D. London: 1884. P. Blakiston, Son & Co. Philadelphia. Volume II. Diseases of the Œsophagus, Nose, and Naso-pharynx.

The first volume of this work, which appeared several years ago, is already so well known to the profession that it is unnecessary to commend the present volume.

We may merely state that it treats of the diseases of the œsophagus, nose and naso-pharynx in the same terse and lucid style which characterizes other works by the same author, and in the comprehensive manner observed in the first volume of the present work. Those who have the first volume have been anxiously waiting for the second, and physicians who are not familiar with the first, may rest assured that in this work they will find one of the most satisfactory treatises that has appeared on any special subject for many years.

E. F. I.